Students request condoms

By Lisa Buchanan
Lantern staff writer

Condom dispensers in the residence halls and the unions?
Miami University and University of Cincinnati students are pushing for them on their campuses, and Ohio State could be next.

President Edward H. Jennings said he has "no particular objection" to the idea. He said installing the machines will be no problem if next year's USG president and vice president work with the Office of Residence and Dining Halls.
The condom machines would probably become "just another vending contract," Jennings said.

Miami University's student government first suggested that condoms be put in residence hall bathrooms, said student government president, Tom Watson.

Watson said the proposal passed in the Student Senate but was killed by a narrow margin in the Student Affairs Board, which is made up of students, faculty and administration.

Tuesday Watson proposed to the Student Senate that the university install condom dispensers in the 24-hour Student Center instead, so students can have around-the-clock access to the condoms.
The University Senate passed the proposal and Watson said he believes it will pass in Student Affairs next week.

However, the proposal must also be passed by the university's Board of Trustees before it can be enacted.
The condom issue is also being discussed at the University of Cincinnati.

Although the administration originally turned down the proposal for installing condom dispensers in residence halls, the Office of Residence Life has reconsidered because the bill was passed with only one objection in the student government, said Phil Collins, speaker of the Student Senate.

Collins said the office plans to survey students at the university on the issue and will then make a decision.
At Ohio State, USG presidential and vice presidential candidates Jon Cohen and St Pitstick have proposed installing condom dispensers in dormitories, the unions and in High Street bars.

Larry Thompson, attorney and special assistant to Jennings, said he sees no legal difficulty involved in the issue.

Several of the campus area bars have expressed an interest in the dispensers but others were reluctant because of the vandalism they believe would occur.

Bradley Miller, manager of Mean Mr. Mustards, was enthusiastic about the idea and said he would be happy to have the machines in the establishment.

However, Kevin Kenny, assistant manager of Pa-Pa Joe's, said the bar would probably not put them in because "half the machines would get ripped off the wall before they did any good."
The Vending Hospital Specialties Co., of Cleveland, said the condom machines could be bought for as little as $1.00 per unit and condoms could be purchased for $21.60 per 144.

The cost of each condom could range from 50 cents to $1.
If USG does decide to press the issue next year, Jennings said he sees no need for the issue to go through the Board of Trustees for approval.
Condom machines come to campus

On the 15th floor of Ohio State University's Lincoln Tower—a nondescript cigarette machine—Marlboros, S & Kool, Camel—most of the favorite brands are there.

But there's one item that caught some extra attention this year. It goes by the name "Lifestyle," and it's not a cigarette, it's a condom.

The sales method isn't one you would have seen a few years ago, but condom distribution has changed because of concern over the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases. Lifestyle is the particular type of condoms that OSU officials have chosen to stock in cigarette machines in response to a concern that condoms need to be more available to students.

A pack of four condoms can be purchased for $1.60. Condoms were chosen as the method of delivery because they're already in most OSU dormitories. But some OSU students have expressed concern that people won't purchase the condoms because machines are in public places—such as the Lincoln Tower vending area.

Placement of condom sales in those public areas, however, has been by design.

"Restrooms are in much more secluded areas and are prone to vandalism," says Bill Schwartz, assistant director of residence and dining hall operations.

OSU began selling condoms in its University Health Services area more than a year ago, says Russell Spillman, vice provost of student affairs. Last year, condoms also were made available in student unions and university-owned book stores.

OSU has even published a list of university district businesses that sell the products.

This fall the OSU AIDS Education and Research Committee, of which Schwartz is a member, decided that making condoms readily available to those on campus might help curb the spread of AIDS. In late October, condoms were put into 21 machines in residence halls, says Schwartz. Within two weeks, an estimated 55 packages were sold, although several machines were emptied of their allotted amount of 10 packages before they were restocked.

Although initially there were some concerns from faculty and staff that the university was promoting sexual activity, no opposition has surfaced since sales began. "The reaction has been generally positive," says Schwartz. "The reason we decided to sell them" was based on the recommendation of health officials," he adds.

Doctors, attorneys, students and others who are representative of the campus population are among those who serve on the university's AIDS Education and Research Committee.

"No, it wasn't a controversy," agrees Dr. Robert Perkins, chairman of the Education and Research Committee. And even though it took several months of discussion before the condoms were put into the vending machines, Perkins says that's not unusual. "A university is a democratic place. It's a place where things like this need to be considered for a long time....," he explains.

In addition to condoms, packages also contain the usual manufacturer's insert and an additional pamphlet put together by the AIDS Education and Research Committee. It also includes AIDS information and telephone numbers of organizations in the area that can respond to questions concerning the disease.

—Sherry Beck Paprocki
Study shows dorm condom choice bad

Failure rate high for LifeStyles

By Brigggen Wrinkle
Lantern Staff writer

When Ohio State placed condom machines in residence halls, it may have made a poor choice, according to a study done by Consumer Reports.

Samples of LifeStyles Nuda Plus, which is the condom available in OSU residence halls, were grossly defective, said a report in the March issue of the magazine.

As a result of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, the Federal Drug Administration has made checking the quality of condoms a higher priority.

The FDA uses a standard water test to check leakage. Officials fill a condom with 10 ounces of water to spot pinholes.

Some companies check every condom for pinholes electrically as an assurance for quality control.

"When the LifeStyles Nuda Plus was filled with water, bulges sometimes appeared, revealing thin spots," according to the article.

The magazine's staff also used an airburst test, which is not required in the United States. Condoms are filled with air until they burst. The condom's size before bursting and the amount of air pressure used are measured.

The condoms must withstand 18 pounds of pressure per square inch, which is the suggested international standard for testing condoms.

LifeStyles Nuda Plus came in last place with more than 10 percent projected failures.

"The airburst test results should be taken with a grain of salt, because the condom is ruptured at the rim of the condom," See CONDOM: page 2

not the tip," said Gary Mangini, chief pharmacist at the OSU pharmacy.

The article also said the instructions for the use of the LifeStyle condom were judged worse than most.

Bill Schwartz, assistant director of residence hall operations, said there are additional inserts included in the packaging.

"There is an insert from the company explaining how to use the condom and how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and an OSU fact sheet about AIDS and local numbers to call for additional information about AIDS, birth control, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases," he said.

The packaging of the condom is also an issue raised by the article. Translucent packaging may increase the rate of aging of the condom, resulting in damage to it.

"Condoms might age a little faster in a transparent package versus a full package," Mangini said. "But as long as they are stored properly, there should be no problem."

In November 1988, Ohio State placed condoms in residence halls, making it the first Big Ten school to make condoms available to students in residence halls.

The condoms were placed in residence halls to help educate and increase awareness about sexually transmitted disease, especially AIDS, Schwartz said.

Ohio State chose this brand of condom because the company in charge of the vending machines on campus has a contract with Ansell Inc., the makers of LifeStyle, Mangini said.

Of the condoms available to the university, LifeStyle was the only condom containing nonoxynol-9, an active ingredient effective against the AIDS virus, he said.

Mangini had to approve the LifeStyles Nuda Plus use in the residence halls, Schwartz said.

"The LifeStyles condom is just as good as any other condom on that list," Mangini said. "Every condom being sold on campus is a good quality condom."

Ohio State sells condoms in four places: student unions, book stores, the OSU pharmacy and residence halls.

Mangini is in the process of switching the condoms in the first three locations to Trojan Plus, a condom that received a good rating in the report.

The condoms cost $1.70 for four condoms, which is cheaper than drug store prices.

John Cook, manager and pharmacist at Renco, said his biggest seller is the Trojan at 12 condoms for $4.19, because it is reasonably priced.
Poor test results prompt additional brand of condom at OSU

By Debbie Bernard
Lantern staff writer

In response to poor test results and low public opinion of LifeStyles condoms, Ohio State is selling a second brand of condoms on campus.

The phasing in of Trojan Plus 2 brand condoms at OSU residence halls, student unions and the pharmacy began in April and is now complete, said Gary Mangini, chief pharmacist at the Student Health Center.

Mangini said he doesn’t think there is anything wrong with the LifeStyles condom, which is still available in residence hall cigarette machines.

“They really are a good condom — there were no problems — but we had to respond to poor public opinion of them since the Lantern article,” said Mangini, referring to a March 8 editorial calling for a replacement of the LifeStyles brand.

The editorial was a reaction to an article in the March issue of Consumer Reports in which 40 brands of condoms were tested for leakage and strength. The magazine used both the “airburst test” and the “pinhole test.” In the first test, condoms were filled with several quarts of air to see if they burst; in the second, they were filled with 10 ounces of water and tested for leakage.

LIFESTYLES CONDOMS passed the pinhole test, but showed a 10 percent failure rate in the airburst test. The airburst test is required in Canada and Denmark, but not in the United States, where only the pinhole test must be passed.

Trojan Plus 2, a lubricated latex condom that uses the spermicidal Nonoxynol-9, placed in the top group in the Consumer Reports study.

“If I feel they’re still OK,” said Bill Schwartz, assistant director for Residence and Dining Halls Operations, referring to the LifeStyles brand, “but it’s important to offer a second brand.”

Schwartz said condom sales have been steady but slow in residence halls, with about 150 to 200 packages sold each month.

TWENTY-ONE cigarette machines on campus stock LifeStyles condoms and 18 Sanese machines stock the Trojan brand. However, the sale of condoms in cigarette machines will be phased out by the end of the year as part of an effort to completely ban smoking and tobacco sales on campus.

Susan Henderson, administrative associate for the Ohio Union, said sales at the student union newsstands have also been slow, with only five to 10 packages sold each month. The condoms are stored under the counter, which means customers must ask for them. Sales had improved when the condoms were moved to a jar on top of the counter, but people objected to having them near candy, so they were put back, Henderson said.

Even if sales are slow, offering condoms on campus is a service provided for the student’s protection, said Marianne Joseph, coordinator of nursing for University Health Services.

“We don’t offer this for profit,” Joseph said. “It’s a service because we’re concerned about student protection against AIDS.”

SCHWARTZ SAID offering condoms on campus has helped increase awareness of AIDS.

“I think the program has been effective on the whole,” Schwartz said.

According to an article by health expert Leanne Kleinman published in the August issue of Glamour magazine, the shelf life of condoms is from three to five years.